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SPECIFICATION

DIELECTRIC RESONANT DEVICE, FILTER, DUPLEXER, AND
COMMUNICATION APPARATUS

Technical Field

The present invention relates to dielectric resonant devices having cavities which contain dielectric cores, filters and duplexers using the dielectric resonant devices, and communication apparatuses using the filters and the duplexers.

Background-Art

Hitherto, dielectric resonant devices have been used as filters and the like used in microwave bands, each dielectric resonant device having a ceramic cavity which has an open face, contains a dielectric core, and is provided with a conductive film, the cavity being covered by a metallic panel at the open face thereof.

In particular, a dielectric resonant device is disclosed in, for example, Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication Nos. 9-51201 and 8-222905, in which a metallic panel provided with a coupling loop and the like formed thereon and having a coefficient of linear expansion substantially the same as that of a material for resonator is directly connected by soldering to an electrode formed on

an open face of a ceramic cavity. Another dielectric resonant device is disclosed in, for example, Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication Nos. 8-181513 and 8-65017, in which an open face of a ceramic cavity is covered by a printed circuit board provided with a coupling loop and the like formed thereon, and a conductive film of the ceramic cavity and the printed circuit board are connected to each other by soldering via a grounding plate therebetween, or the grounding plate is screwed to the substrate side.

However, a problem has been found in the above dielectric resonant device disclosed in Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication Nos. 9-51201 and 8-222905, in that since the thermal capacity of the ceramic cavity is large when the dielectric resonant device is large, a large temperature gradient is likely to be generated when soldering and a stress is applied to the joint part, whereby cracks causing breakages are easily produced in the joint part during use for a long time. The dielectric resonant device disclosed in Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication Nos. 8-181513 and 8-65017 requires a plurality of the grounding plates, thereby increasing the number of components and increasing manufacturing costs as a whole.

There is a problem in either dielectric resonant device of above, in that the manufacturing efficiency significantly decreases when the shape of the open face of the ceramic cavity is complex. The tendency toward the decrease of the

efficiency is remarkable particularly when a regulated lead-free solder is used.

Summary of the Invention

According to the present invention, a dielectric resonant device comprises a ceramic cavity having an open face and coated with a conductive film, the cavity containing a dielectric core; a conductive panel for covering the open face; and a resilient grounding plate sandwiched between the open face of the cavity coated with the conductive film and the conductive panel. The conductive panel is fixed to the cavity in such a manner as to be pressed thereto. The open face of the cavity and the conductive panel with the grounding plate therebetween which is connected to the conductive film formed on the open face of the cavity are brought into resilient contact with each other, whereby the problem of an unreliable contact part caused by soldering and the problem of an increased number of components and increased manufacturing costs due to the increased number of grounding plates are overcome, and manufacturing operations can be easily performed even when the shape of the open face of the cavity is complex.

According to the present invention, the grounding plate may be provided with projections which project in such a manner as to increase the thickness of the grounding plate in a direction of a gap between the conductive film provided on the open face and the conductive panel. With this

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According to the present invention, filter and duplexer individually comprise the dielectric resonant devices according to the present invention.

A communication apparatus comprises the filter or duplexer according to the present invention.

Brief Description of Drawings

Fig. 1 is an exploded perspective view of dielectric resonant devices which form a filter according to a first embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a top view of cavities of the dielectric resonant devices shown in Fig. 1, including input and output loops and coupling loops.

Fig. 3 is a partial sectional-view of a grounding plate used in the dielectric resonant device according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 4 is an illustration showing three resonant modes of the dielectric resonant device according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

Figs. 5a and 5b are illustrations showing a control for coupling the resonant modes and the control of the frequency, according to the first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 6 is a top view of a duplexer according to a second embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 7 is a block diagram of a communication apparatus according to a third embodiment of the present invention.

Best Mode for carrying out the Invention

Fig. 1 is an exploded perspective view of a filter according to an embodiment of the present invention. In Fig. 1, numerals 1a and 1b represent dielectric-ceramic cavities of which top and bottom faces are open faces. Dielectric cores 2a and 2b are provided in the cavities 1a and 1b, respectively. The dielectric cores 2a and 2b are formed in the cavities 1a and 1b, respectively, integrally therewith. Fig. 2 is a top view of the cavities integrally provided with the dielectric cores.

In Fig. 1, numeral 3 represents an upper metal panel which covers the cavities 1a and 1b at the upper open faces thereof. Numeral 4 represents a lower metal panel which covers the cavities 1a and 1b at the lower open faces thereof. Numerals 5a and 5b represent grounding plates which are sandwiched between the upper open faces of the

grounding plates 5a, 5b, 6a, and 6b are each formed in a frame having substantially the same shape as the outline of the open face of the cavity 1a or 1b. The grounding plate 5a, 5b, 6a, or 6b is provided with a plurality of projections which project in the thickness direction and extending along the frame. With this arrangement, the overall thickness of each grounding plate 5a, 5b, 6a, or 6b increases, and the resilient deformation in the thickness direction of the grounding plates 5a, 5b, 6a, and 6b is allowed to be increased. Therefore, when the upper and lower panels 3 and 4 are mounted on the upper and lower open faces, respectively, of the cavities 1a and 1b with the grounding plates 5a and 5b, and 6a and 6b, respectively, between the upper panel 3 and the cavities 1a and 1b, and the lower panel 4 and the cavities 1a and 1b, respectively, the upper and lower panels 3 and 4 are evenly brought into contact with the conductive films provided on the upper and lower open faces, respectively, of the cavities 1a and 1b, whereby a reliable grounding connection can be provided.

In Fig. 2, an input-output loop 9a is connected to a central conductor of the coaxial connector 7a, and an input-output loop 9b is connected to a central conductor of the coaxial connector 7b. The coupling loops 10a and 10b independently form loops with the lower panel 4. The coupling loop 10a forms a loop-plane perpendicular to the loop-plane formed by the input-output loop 9a and the upper panel 3, and the coupling loop 10b forms a loop-plane

perpendicular to the loop-plane formed by the input-output loop 9b and the upper panel 3.

Modes used by the dielectric resonant device and the coupling between each mode are described below.

Fig. 4 is a bottom view of the filter shown in Fig. 1 which is a dielectric-core-integrated cavity unit. In Fig. 4, the directions of electric-field vectors in a first mode (TM_{110x}+TM_{110y} mode), a second mode (TM₁₁₁ mode), and a third mode (TM_{110x}-TM_{110y} mode) are schematically shown by thick-lined arrows, dotted-lined arrows, and thin-lined arrows, respectively. The frequency in the TM₁₁₁ mode is made substantially the same as that in the TM_{110x}+TM_{110y} mode and TM_{110x}-TM_{110y} mode by providing the concavities 11.

Both Figs. 5a and 5b includes bottom views of a cavity, which show holes and grooves provided for controlling coupling between predetermined modes of the above three modes used by the dielectric resonant device and for controlling the frequency in each mode. Fig. 5(A) shows the cavity before tuning. In Fig. 5(B), grooves 28 and 26 having predetermined depths extend toward each other so as to have an angle of 45° from opposing corners of a dielectric core formed with two dielectric columns crossing each other in the x-y directions. By differing the sizes of the grooves 28 and 26 from each other, a perturbation is given to the distribution of field intensities of the first mode (TM_{110x}+TM_{110y} mode) and the second mode (TM₁₁₁ mode), thereby coupling the first and second modes. In the same

grooves 25, 26, 27, and 28 which are provided for coupling.

With reference to Fig. 2, the input-output loop 9a of a dielectric resonant device 100 couples with the first mode (TM_{110x}-TM_{110y} mode) and the coupling loop 10a couples with the third mode (TM_{110x}+TM_{110y} mode). The input-output loop 9b of a dielectric resonant device 101 couples with the third mode and the coupling loop 10b couples with the first mode. The first and third modes couple with each other indirectly via the second mode (TM₁₁₁ mode) instead of directly coupling with each other because the first and third modes are perpendicular to each other. The dielectric resonant device shown in Fig. 1 functions as a filter having band-pass characteristics of six resonator-poles in which coupling is performed between the coaxial connectors 7a and 7b consecutively from the first, second, and the third modes of the dielectric resonant device 100, then, the first, second, and the third modes of the dielectric resonant device 101.

The upper and lower panels 3 and 4 are fixed to the cavities 1a and 1b by screws instead of soldering, whereby the assembly is made simple, thereby reducing the time and costs necessary for the manufacture. The disassembly can be performed easily during experiments and productions of prototypes; therefore, designing in a short time is possible.

Fig. 6 is an illustration of a duplexer according to a second embodiment. The duplexer shown in Fig. 6 includes two sets of the filters, each including two dielectric

resonant devices according to the first embodiment. Fig. 6 is a top view of the duplexer from an upper panel thereof. In Fig. 6, two dielectric resonant devices 100TX and 101TX form a transmitting filter, and other two dielectric resonant devices 100RX and 101RX form a receiving filter. The four dielectric resonant devices 100TX, 101TX, 100RX, and 101RX are integrated with each other by sandwiching cavities of the respective dielectric resonant devices 100TX, 101TX, 100RX, and 101RX with two upper and lower panels.

The filter formed with the dielectric resonant devices 100TX and 101TX and having six poles of resonators is basically the same as the filter according to the first embodiment except for that a coupling loop 9b coupling with the third resonator-pole of the dielectric resonant device 101TX, that is, the last resonator-pole of the transmitting filter is connected via a line to a coupling loop 9c coupling with the first resonator-pole of the dielectric resonant device 100RX, that is, the first resonator-pole of the receiving filter. A coaxial connector 7ANT as an antenna terminal is connected to a given point of the line at the central conductor of the coaxial connector 7ANT. Transmitting signals and received signals are branched from each other via the line.

Thus, the duplexer is formed with the transmitting filter including six resonator-poles and the receiving filter including six resonator-poles, and has a coaxial connector 7TX as a transmitting-signal-input terminal and a

coaxial connector 7RX as a received-signal-output terminal.

As described above, the cavities and the panels are reliably connected to each other, and the number of components is reduced, thereby reducing manufacturing costs. When the open faces of the cavities have complex shapes, a dielectric filter or duplexer reduced in size and having predetermined characteristics can be provided by providing screws passing through the inside or outside of the cavities according to the shapes of the open faces of the cavities.

Fig. 7 is a block diagram of a communication apparatus according to a third embodiment of the present invention. A duplexer used in the communication apparatus includes a transmitting filter and a receiving filter. The duplexer has the configuration shown in Figs. 5 and 6. In the duplexer, a transmitting-signal-input port is connected to a transmitting circuit, a received-signal-output port is connected to a receiving circuit, and an antenna port is connected to an antenna. The dielectric filter shown in Figs. 1 to 5 may be provided at an output-part of the transmitting circuit and an input-part of the receiving circuit.

As described above, a communication apparatus reduced in overall size and weight is obtainable by using dielectric filters and/or dielectric duplexers reduced in size in which the cavities and the panels are reliably connected to each other, the number of components is reduced, thereby reducing manufacturing costs, and predetermined characteristics are

obtained.

According to the present invention, the problem of an unreliable contact part caused by soldering and the problem of an increased number of components and increased manufacturing costs due to the increased number of grounding plates are overcome, and manufacturing operations can be easily performed even when the shape of the open face of the cavity is complex.

The grounding plates are each provided with projections which project in such a manner as to increase the thickness of the grounding plate in a direction of a gap between the conductive film provided on the open face and the conductive panel. Therefore, the grounding plates are provided with high resiliency in the thickness direction of the grounding plates, whereby superior electrical connection (grounding) can be maintained between the conductive films provided on the open faces of the cavity and the conductive panels.

By fixing first and second panels to each other, for covering the first and second open faces, respectively, opposing substantially parallel to each other of the cavity by screws, a dielectric resonant device including the opposing two conductive panels, each provided with a coupling loop and the like, is obtainable. The cavity is not necessarily provided with a particular structure for mounting panels, and the panels can be mounted simply by fixing the panels to the cavity so as to sandwich the cavity.

At least some of the screws provided in a plurality of

positions are disposed in the positions at which the screws pass through the inside of the cavity, whereby the overall size of the dielectric resonant device is prevented from increasing due to additional spaces for the screws.

The dielectric columns are provided with concavities formed in the sidewalls of the cavity and extending in a direction of two axes of the dielectric columns and some of the screws passing outside the cavity are not disposed in enlarged spaces formed toward the outside of the cavity, whereby the overall dielectric resonant device is prevented from being enlarged. Moreover, the panels are pressed to the open faces of the cavity by the screws disposed inside the cavity and the screws disposed outside the cavity, whereby a bending stress is not likely to be applied to the panels, thereby maintaining the flatness of the open faces of the cavity. Therefore, a risk of variations in the frequency characteristics according to the screwing torque can be avoided.

Industrial Applicability

As is obvious from above description, the dielectric resonant device, filter and duplexer of this invention can be applied to, for example, communication apparatuses to be included in base stations for cellular phone system.